

Patient Information: Rifampin 300 mg capsules

This medication is an antibiotic. It is given to you to prevent the spread of:
Meningococcal Disease caused by Neisseria Meningitidis

Take this medicine as prescribed: 1 capsule of 300mg every 12 hours, for two days (for a total of 4 capsules)

Rifampin comes as a capsule to take by mouth. Rifampin works best on an empty stomach; take it 1 hour before or at least 2 hours after a meal. If you have difficulty swallowing the capsule, you may empty its contents into applesauce or jelly. Take rifampin exactly as directed. Do not take more or less of it or take it more often than prescribed by your doctor.

Before taking rifampin tell the nurse:

- If you are allergic to rifampin
- if you have or have ever had liver disease.
- if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding. If you become pregnant while taking rifampin, call your doctor.
- what prescription and nonprescription medications you are taking, especially anticoagulants ('blood thinners') such as warfarin (Coumadin), cyclosporine (Neoral, Sandimmune), estrogen, hydrocortisone (Hydrocortone), medications for heart disease or diabetes, methadone, prednisone (Deltasone), theophylline (Theo-Dur), verapamil (Calan, Isoptin), and vitamins.
- Rifampin alters the effectiveness of oral contraceptives; use another method of birth control while taking this medication. Ask your doctor for advice.

What special precautions should I follow?

- you should know that this drug might make you drowsy. Do not

drive a car or operate machinery until you know how this drug affects you.

- avoid drinking alcohol while taking this medication.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed one.

What side effects can Rifampin cause?

Although side effects from rifampin are not common, they can occur. Your urine, stools, saliva, sputum, sweat, and tears may turn red-orange; this effect is harmless. Tell your doctor if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away:

- headache
- muscle pain
- bone pain
- heartburn
- upset stomach
- vomiting
- stomach cramps
- chills
- diarrhea

If you experience any of the following symptoms, call your doctor immediately:

- skin rash (hives)
- sores on skin or in the mouth
- fever
- yellowing of the skin or eyes

What storage conditions are needed for Rifampin?

Keep this medication in the bag it came in, tightly closed, and out of reach of children. Store it at room temperature and away from excess heat and moisture (not in the bathroom). Throw away any medication that is outdated or no longer needed.

Questions : During business hours call (603) 271-4496; after hours call (603) 271 5300 and request to talk with the Public Health professional on call.